



Memo

To: «District_Name», «Admin_Email»

From: Katie Graham

CC: «Perkins_Contact»

Date: 3/25/2016

Re: Identifying CTE Concentrators

As we await federal reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, the previously announced transition period for internal calculations of Nebraska Career Education participation information (i.e. CTE Concentrators and Participants) has been extended. The following information provides essential details concerning this process.

With the successful implementation of the Nebraska Student and Staff Records System (NSSRS) Student Grades Template, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) began a transition period where the collection of sufficient student-level information from school districts would eventually allow for the calculation of nearly all Perkins accountability items in-house. A previously distributed memo (Hastings, 2012) speculated that the 2016-2017 academic year would end the transition period and begin the process of identifying Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators based on course sequences within a State Model Program of Study (POS).

As we eagerly await the federal reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, we have chosen to extend the transition period in an effort to review any new legislation and implement changes only once, rather than multiple times across years. Therefore, while we are still within the transition period the collection and submission of Perkins accountability items (via the Programs Fact Template) will remain the responsibility of each school district. Additionally, **the following criteria should be used by Perkins participating school districts to identify CTE Concentrators:**

- A **CTE Concentrator** shall be identified as a secondary student (grades 9-12) who has completed three (3) or more one semester-long courses within a single career cluster

(i.e. Health Sciences or Business, Management, and Administration) or career field (i.e. Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources or Skilled and Technical Sciences).

- This means that during this extended transition period, the identification of a CTE Concentrator shall **not** be limited to approved state model POS course sequences. Rather, CTE Concentrators should be identified using the relaxed standard of any three (3) credits within a single CTE career or cluster area.
- A **CTE Participant** shall be identified as a student (grades 7-12) that has earned credit in at least one career and technical education course during the school year. Students may participate in more than one career area.

As a general reminder, the **2015-2016 Perkins year-end data submission deadline is June 15, 2016**. More information can be found on the Perkins Secondary Accountability webpage located at <http://www.education.ne.gov/NCE/Accountability/Secondary/index.html>. Additional information and instructions for NSSRS data submission, including a detailed submission calendar, can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/NSSRS/Resources.html>.

As the new Perkins Data, Research, and Evaluation Specialist for Career Education, I'm looking forward to working with each of you! My goal is to ensure the Perkins data collection and submission processes are as easy and streamlined as possible, and once analyzed, the story portrayed by our statewide performance provides direction for academic programming and improvement. If there is anything I can provide or do to support your efforts, please feel free to reach out. I can be reached at 402-471-3104 or katie.graham@nebraska.gov. I welcome your feedback and anticipate a smooth year-end reporting season!